

1 Sam. 17:38-39 And Saul clad David with his apparel, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his apparel and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

Saul's attempt to equip David with regulation armor. David's daring declaration, "I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them." And David went forth to fight Goliath dressed in his simple shepherd's garment and for a weapon- his sling which he knew so well how to use.

Let us take Saul and David as types. Let Saul stand for the desire of uniformity: David stands for individuality.

I. The Passion for Uniformity.

Saul's attempt to make of David but another Saul represents the universal tendency to reduce people to a common level. For the sake of uniformity individuality is suppressed.

The school is unable to to regard the individual aptitudes of the pupils.

Society has its customs, beliefs and usages and endeavors to conform its members to them. The orthodox person who respects traditions, worships conventions, and falls in with established customs and ways meets with popular approval. And, as a rule, our customs and usages have been tried in the fires of experience and are the best product of the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of the ages. But a blind acceptance of them that results in the crushing of all individuality is fatal to all progress, and without progress the world cannot be made over into the kingdom of God, it cannot be perfected.

1. A uniformity of religious experience. The common belief that there is only one gate to the kingdom of heaven. James' "Varieties of Religious Experience"

2. Likewise there is an attempt to maintain the forms of truth from one age to another.

- a. We do not attempt to do this with secular, scientific knowledge.

Religious knowledge enlarges the growth as much as

scientific knowledge, then why should we expect that forms of religious truth to remain ever the same? Christ promised us thru the Spirit new light and new truth, and new light and new truth always demands new expression. The old wine skins cannot contain the new wine.

The Westminster Confession a great and notable document, but we cannot make men today speak its language and confine themselves to its forms and expressions of truth.

Calvin's "Institutes" an immortal monument to the great and subtle theologian, John Calvin, but its language and beliefs will not do for today.

Nor can Methodists confine themselves to the form and beliefs of John Wesley, one of God's greatest gifts to England, tho he was.

Saul was a great warrior but David was'nt built like Saul and could not fight like Saul, and in order to be a successful fighter David had to fight his own way. And if we of today would be successful children of God in the world of spiritual reality and truth we must be, above all things, ourselves.

3. Also there is ever attempt made to to enforce a uniform method. It scandalized Saul to think of David fighting the enemy of Israel with a sling and stones. The innovator hasto fight for recognition.

"Master," said one of his disciples to Jesus one day, "

"we say one casting out devils in thy name and we forvade him because he followeth not us."

Jesus driven out of the church for the same reason.

Luther likewise. And John Wesley.

The Salvation Army. William Booth.

II. Would you serve the Lord efficiently? Then be yourselves.

1. Make your thots and your beliefs your very own.

No man can fight his best with untried weapons.

No matter how beautiful and true the thots of another may be, if you do not make them your very own, they cannot serve your highest purpose in life. What faith you have must be yar very own. God intended that every man be a voice and that no man be an echo.

2. Likewise, if you would be efficient, do your work in your own way. It may be that the common way is the best, but you must make it your best way.

And if you find that your best way has to be different fm from the common way, then do your work in your own way. No matter if it is'nt orthodox, or if it is'nt regarded as the correct way- if it is the way for you to do your best, then do it. Be yourself!

III. What God really wants- every man to be his true self.

1. How Goliath mocked David at first! But how well David succeeded we all know. God can best use the individuality of each. God wants Saul to be Saul and David to be David.
2. Take, i.e., the disciples of Jesus.
 Peter, the man of impulse
 John, the man of rare love and enthusiasm.
 James, the man of hard common sense.
 Thomas, rather cautious and sceptical, but loyal.
 Now Jesus never tried to reduce his disciples to a common type. He allowed each to be himself.

With our poor slings and five stones let us offer ourselves unto God for His service. It matters not that our equipment is not regulation or as good as somebody elses. If it be ours tried and true and if by means of it we can do our best for God, that is what God wants.